(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The Government of Maharashtra had requested for supply of 50,000 tonnes of wheat under Employment Guarantee Scheme for relief works.

(b) Matter is under correspondence with the State Government.

Purchasing of Wheat by Roller Mills

3865. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Maharashtra have requested the Union Government to permit the roller flour mills to purchase 'A' and 'B' varieties of wheat; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTTR OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H K L BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With the delicensing of roller flour milling industry in July, 1986 the Central Government have no obligation to supply wheat to the RFMs, who are now free to obtain their requirement of wheat from any source including the FCI, subject to availability.

Ban on Sale of 'CEL PHOS'

3866. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Cel Phos' is being manufactured in India;

(b) if so, what are the modes of its sale and distribution;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a number of serious accidental and suicidal deaths due to consumption of 'Cel Phos' have been registered in various hospitals of the country;

(d) if reply to part (c) above be in the affirmative, what steps have been taken by Government to check the recurrence of such deaths in future,

(e) whether it is also a fact that there is no antidote for 'Cel Phos' poisoning; and

(f) if so, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of banning distribution and sale of 'Cel Phos' in view of its serious effects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) 'Cel Phos' is one of the trade names of an insecticide known as Aluminium phosphide and is manufactured in India

(b) The Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968 has imposed restricions on the sale and use of Aluminium phosphide. The Aluminium phosphide can only be sold to the Government/ Government Undertakings/Organisations like Warehousing Corporations/ Food Corporation of India, etc. and the said insecticide is to be used strictly under the supervision of the Government experts or by Pest Control operators whose expertise has been approved by the Plant Protection Adviser to the Government of India.

(c) No specific information about deaths due to consumption of 'Cel Phos' has come to the notice However, the available information about suicidal/Accidental deaths due to ingestion of Aluminium phosphide is given hereunder:—

(i) During 1983, 35 suicidal death cases were reported from